

## FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

### TRIP OF APRIL 7

Fifteen members and guests assembled at Point Pleasant and in a procession of four cars advanced to the Pine Barrens, south of Warren Grove.

We found *Corema* in perfection, arbutus and *Pyxidantha* were just coming into bloom. *Dendrium* was abundant, but not in bloom. A few flowers of *Leucothoe* were found.

We visited a cranberry bog which was just being made and had an explanation of how bogs are made and cared for.

*Orontium* was beginning to show its gold.

VERNON L. FRAZEE

### TRIP OF MAY 5

Twenty members and guests met for bird study at Van Cortlandt Park where the swamp provides an attractive environment for water birds and those preferring dense shrubbery, while the hillsides to the west of the Saw Mill River Parkway are more favorable for warblers and other woods' birds.

Although it was cold, with a temperature of 50° at the time of starting, and a slight wind made observations more difficult, yet forty-five species were observed between 10 A. M. and 3 P. M. when, as we neared Dunwoodie, a shower sent the birds and us to cover.

Several interesting records were made; a black duck sitting on her nest in the swamp; a green heron; and two male black-crowned night herons with their white plumes extending backward from the black crown and showing conspicuously over the dark back; while a ruby-crowned kinglet flitting about near by occasionally gave us a view of the brilliant feathers on his head.

In the woods an indigo bunting gave an unusually favorable view, and caused great excitement among those of the party seeing him for the first time, while those who know him could not fail but be thrilled anew by his marvelous color.

Among the migrants on their way north were a blue-headed vireo, myrtle warblers, black-throated green warblers, and a Blackburnian.

Although birds were the chief objective of this walk the flowers claimed some attention, too. A few marsh marigolds, *Caltha palustris*, were still lingering; dwarf ginseng, *Panax trifolium*, was in bloom; the charming little golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium americanum*; the wild pink, *Silene pennsylvanica*; and others; and many violets, the following of which were identified: Two yellows, *Viola pubescens* and *V. scabriuscula*, and five blues, *V. papilionacea*, *V. cucullata*, *V. sagittata*, *V. palmata* and *V. conspersa*.

EDITH DAY CHUBB

#### TRIP OF MAY 3-5

The promise of good times that Lake Mohonk gave last fall was fully kept this spring.

There were 25 of us there.

The weather left something to be desired but weather never bothers the Torreys.

Mr. Daniel Smiley who knows all the trails led the party into the hills and brought us back safely in spite of the obscuring fog.

A group of bird lovers had a before breakfast trip and reported 21 species. This does not include the numerous attempts to count the blue jays.

Mrs. Anderson was with us, so of course we had an interesting lichen trip and Mohonk abounds in lichens. Also her talk on Saturday evening was instructive and enjoyable. It was grand weather for lichens anyhow.

VERNON L. FRAZEE

#### NATURE OUTING, MAY 24-26, AT BRANCHVILLE, N. J.

Sixty-five members and friends attended this annual outing. Mr. Stephen R. Smith was in charge of the program, which was carefully prepared and varied in its appeal. On Saturday and Sunday geological trips were led by Dr. Meredith Johnson, Associated State Geologist to study rock outcrops and glacial phenomena. Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Chubb led early morning bird trips as well as morning and afternoon trips for bird study. Dr. Ralph Benedict led trips especially for the study of ferns. Dr. Harold N. Moldenke and Dr. H. K. Svenson led trips for the study of trees and flowering plants. On Friday and Saturday

evenings programs of music and lectures had been arranged in the recreation building of the inn. Accommodations at the Pines were comfortable as always. Mrs. Chubb compiled a list of over ninety species of birds seen on the trips by members of the party. Dr. Benedict found thirty-three ferns, including *Ophioglossum* at two different places, and Dr. Moldenke listed three hundred and forty-six trees and flowering plants. Dr. Moldenke reported that among the plants seen were *Poa al-sodes*, *Carex eburnea*, *Chamaelirium luteum*, *Melanthium latifolium*, *M. virginicum*, *Parietaria pennsylvanica*, *Comandra umbellata*, *Cerastium nutans*, *Callitriche Austini*, *Clematis verticillaris*, *Lonicera dioica* and *Knautia arvensis*. Fine stands of ground hemlock, *Taxus canadensis*, columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*, and rock cress, *Arabis lyrata* were observed. Four species of *Veronica*, four of *Crataegus*, eight of *Solidago* and eleven of *Viola* were identified. A beautiful example was found where *Phalaris arundinacea* had apparently mutated due to unfavorable environment in hard dry soil to form naturally the variety *picta* which is widely cultivated in our gardens as ribbon-grass.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS